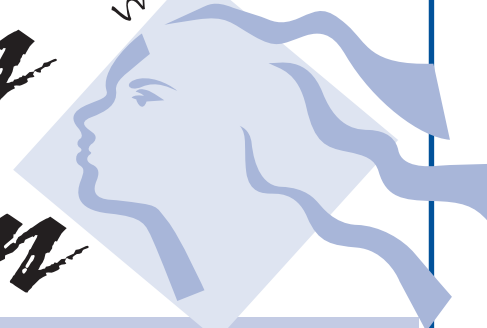


Michigan Women

A Publication
of the
Michigan
Women's
Commission

Winter 2009



◆ GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM ◆ DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RIGHTS DIRECTOR LINDA V. PARKER ◆
◆ CHAIR EMMA BELL ◆ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDY KARANDJEFF ◆

Women in Selected Elected Offices

In 2009, Michigan women hold the following elected offices:

Governor — Jennifer M. Granholm (D)

Secretary of State — Terri Lynn Land (R)

U.S. Senator (2) — Debbie Stabenow (D) (50%)

U. S House of Representatives (15) — Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D) and Candice Miller (R) (13%)

The total number of women serving in the Michigan House and Senate is 37, one more than there were in 2000. Senator Eva McCall Hamilton was the first woman elected to the Senate, Republican from Grand Rapids, from 1921-1922. Representative Cora Reynolds Anderson was the first woman elected to the House, Republican from L'Anse, 1925-1926. One hundred and twenty-one (121) women have been elected to the Michigan House, Senate or both.

The Michigan Senate

There are 9 women serving out of 38 members, 23.7%. This is a decline from the high of 12 in 2006. There are

3 Republican and 6 Democratic women. Democrats are: Senators Liz Brater, Deb Cherry, Irma Clark-Coleman, Gilda Jacobs, Martha Scott, Gretchen Whitmer. Republicans are: Senators Patricia Birkholz, Nancy Cassis, Michelle McManus.

The Michigan House of Representatives

There are 28 women serving (22 Democrats & 6 Republicans) out of 110 members, 25.4%. In 2000, there were 31 women in the House. However, in 2008, there were only 20 women. Fifty-one women candidates ran for the Michigan House of Representatives in the general election; 55% won. Democrats are: Representatives Kathy Angerer, Vicki Barnett, Joan Bauer, Lisa Brown, Pam Brynes, Barb Byrum, Marie Donigan, Kate Ebli, Jennifer Haase, Shanelle Jackson, Deb Kennedy, Ellen Cogen Lipton, Lesia Liss, Judy Nerat, Sarah Roberts, Bettie Scott, Kate Segal, Dian Slavens, Alma Wheeler Smith, Rashida Tlaib, Mary Valentine, Rebekah Warren. Republicans are: Representatives Cindy Denby, Gail Haines, Eileen Kowall, Kimberly Meltzer, Tonya Schuitmaker, Sharon Tyler.

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Women in Elected Offices

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The Michigan Supreme Court

There are seven Michigan Supreme Court Justices that are elected on a nonpartisan ballot for 8 year terms. We have the first female-dominated state Supreme Court in 2009. We have 4 women serving: Maura Corrigan, Diane Hathaway, Marilyn Kelly, and Elizabeth Weaver.

The State Board of Education

There are 8 members of the State Board of Education that are elected on a partisan ballot for 8 year terms. In 2009, there are 6 women serving, 2 Republicans and 4 Democrats: Elizabeth Bauer, Carolyn Curtin, Nancy Danhof, Marianne Yared McGuire, Kathleen Straus, Casandra Ulbrich.

Michigan State University Board of Trustees

There are 8 members that are elected on a partisan ballot for 8 year terms. There are 5 women serving, one Republican and 4 Democrats: Dianne Byrum, Melanie Foster, Colleen McNamara, Faylene Owen, Diann Woodard.

The University of Michigan Board of Regents

There are 8 members that are elected on a partisan ballot for 8 year terms. There are 4 women serving, 4 Democrats: Julia Donovan Darlow, Denise Ilitch, Olivia Maynard, Katherine White.

Wayne State University Board of Governors

There are 8 members that are elected on a partisan ballot for 8 year terms. There are 4 women serving, one Republican and 3 Democrats: Tina Abbott, Debbie Dingell, Annetta Miller, Diane Dunaskiss.

MWC LEGISLATION THAT PASSED

January 2007 – December 2008

HB 5054-5055 (Donigan); **SB 1616** (Jansen), **1617** (Kuipers), **1618** (Birkholz) - bills to allocate justice systems funds, including funding for sexual assault victims' forensic medical intervention. Passed House and Senate, assigned PA 543-547'08 with immediate effect.

HB 5322 (Clack) - bill requires schools to provide information on HPV. Passed House and Senate, assigned PA 121'08 with immediate effect.

HB 6602 (Condino); **SB 1629** (Hardiman) – bills to pay for sexual assault medical forensic exams using Crime Victims Compensation Funds. Passed the House and Senate, assigned PA 390 and 391'08.

All legislation died on December 31, 2008. Some may be re-introduced in the 2009 legislative session. For more information, visit <http://www.legislature.mi.gov>.

Renewable Energy Package Passed

In October Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law a bipartisan energy package she proposed in her 2008 State of the State address that will create jobs, diversify Michigan's economy, and save customers money on their electric bills by ensuring that the bulk of Michigan's future energy needs are produced from renewable energy resources and energy efficiency savings.

"This comprehensive package will create tens of thousands of new energy jobs by making Michigan even more attractive to job-creating companies that are looking for a place to expand as they meet the growing demand for energy from renewable sources like wind and solar power," Granholm said. "It also helps reduce costs for our citizens by requiring new energy efficiency programs and reducing the need for additional coal-burning power plants."

The three-bill package signed by Granholm at two different events today includes a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) that mandates 10 percent of the state's energy come from renewable sources by 2015, regulatory reform that protects Michigan ratepayers and allows utility companies to build new electricity generation in Michigan, and a requirement that utilities meet an additional 5.5 percent of Michigan's annual electricity demands through energy efficiency by 2015.

Granholm noted the energy package protects Michigan ratepayers' money by ensuring that the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies will save more money than they cost. This energy efficiency requirement is projected to save consumers and businesses \$1.04 billion a year by 2025.

The package also includes an income tax credit to offset a portion of ratepayers' investments in renewable energy for Michigan and a "net metering" law that allows customers to sell renewable electricity they produce at their homes or businesses to their utility companies.

"This historic package is the result of compromise and hard work from a lot of people, including legislators, our Public Service Commission, the renewable energy industry, Michigan's utility companies, and so many more," Granholm said. "Together, we are sending a signal that Michigan is ready to build a bright future for our citizens by creating jobs, diversifying our economy, and meeting our 21st century energy needs while protecting both our pocketbooks and our planet."

The demand for green energy is skyrocketing as Americans grow more concerned about the impact of fossil fuels on climate change and our national security. The Michigan Public Service Commission estimates that Michigan currently spends \$26 billion to import fossil fuels annually.

SEXUAL ASSAULT MEDICAL FORENSIC EXAMS

New Michigan laws make it easier for sexual assault victims to get medical forensic exams. Starting December 29, 2008, victims no longer have to pay for their own exams. Instead, health care providers are to bill victims' insurance carriers or get payment from another source. 2008 PA 390-391 create a SAFE Response program in the Department of Community Health ("SAFE Response") is available to pay for an exam if:

- the victim has no insurance, or
- the victim is afraid to use insurance to pay for the exam.

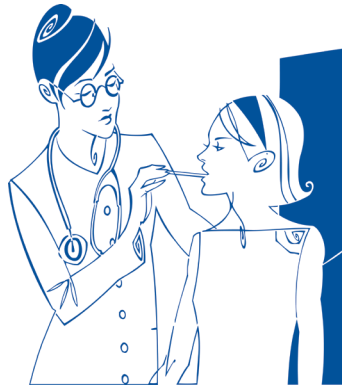
SAFE Response will also pay costs that the victim's insurance company will not pay, like co-pays or deductibles. SAFE Response will pay up to \$600 for any one exam.

The hospital or other provider who does the exam also can seek payment for the exam from other sources, (such as grant programs), as long as they don't ask the victim to pay.

Starting December 29, 2008, a sexual assault victim cannot be required to report the assault to the police or talk to the police or prosecutor in order to:

- get a medical forensic exam, or
- have the costs of the exam paid for as described above.

Michigan lawmakers passed the new laws so more sexual assault victims may get medical forensic exams and the care they



need immediately after a sexual assault. These exams can help victims recover more quickly after an assault, and preserve evidence to potentially prosecute the crime. The new laws also satisfy requirements the state must meet to get federal funding that supports law enforcement work to stop domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why wouldn't a victim want the insurance company to pay for an exam?

Some victims are afraid to bill insurance because they don't want the policy holder to know about the forensic exam. For example, someone who rapes his wife may attack her again if he finds out she had forensic evidence collected. In cases like this, victims don't have to give out their insurance information, and the care provider may bill SAFE Response or another source other than the victim.

Why can't victims be made to report to the police?

Sexual assault experts have found that some victims are uncertain or afraid about reporting the

crime to police right after an assault, even though this is when a doctor or nurse must do the medical forensic exam. Experts who work with victims have found that they often won't have the exam if they have to decide right away about reporting the assault. However, if these victims have time to recover from the assault before they have to think about investigating or prosecuting the crime, they are more likely to get an exam. When victims get exams, they get the health care they need, and better evidence is available for future prosecution.

Will the doctor or hospital have to report the sexual assault to the police?

The new laws on reporting only apply to sexual assault victims. They don't change the legal duty that hospitals, doctors, and nurses have to report certain crimes to police.

What is a medical forensic exam?

Doctors and nurses who do a medical forensic exam do all of the following:

- a) A medical history;
- b) A general medical exam, including laboratory services and prescribed pharmacy items;
- c) One or more of the following:
 - i) A detailed oral exam;
 - ii) A detailed anal exam;
 - iii) A detailed genital exam;
- d) Administration of a sexual assault

evidence kit and related medical procedures and laboratory and pharmacy services.

OTHER HELP IS AVAILABLE FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

Getting a medical forensic exam is only a first step to recovery for victims. The physical and mental suffering caused by sexual assault can last a long time. Any reaction a victim has to being sexually assaulted is normal because there is no one way to experience the healing process after an assault. Victims' physical and mental injuries can make them lose time at work. They can cause victims to have problems getting along with family and friends.

Many organizations provide special services for victims and their friends or family members who need help coping with the effects of sexual assault. Sexual assault service provider organizations offer **FREE** support, counseling and advocacy. Those seeking to locate a sexual assault service provider organization can call the 24 hour Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN) at **(800) 656 - 4673 (HOPE)**. Using callers' telephone area codes, RAINN will route calls to the sexual assault service provider organization nearest to them.

To contact the SAFE Response program, call 517-334-SAFE (7233) or contact the Crime Victim Services Commission.



*Those who have walked ahead of you
might illuminate your path*

Three Convenient Times and Locations

- Friday, March 20, 2009:** Kirkhof Center, Grand Valley State University
(Ashley Nickels, 616-331-2748, womenctr@gvsu.edu)
- Friday, March 27, 2009:** McGregor Center, Wayne State University
(Margaret Winters, 313-577-6244, ak5236@wayne.edu)
- Friday, April 17, 2009:** Campus Center, Alma College
(Karen Klumpp, 989-463-7299, austin@alma.edu)

The Young Women, Strong Leaders conference provides skill development and professional mentoring opportunities to prepare you for entering professional and political life. In this one-day workshop you will meet women leaders – student, academic, corporate, and political leaders – from your region and across the state, building a network that will enable you to successfully work to improve the status of Michigan women.

If you are:

- A current and potential leader on campus and in your community
- Are curious about the experiences of other women leaders
- Are ready to make a difference and build the future

You belong at the Young Women, Strong Leaders Conference!

The Michigan Women's Commission is identifying mentors for the afternoon sessions. If you are interested in being a resource, please contact karandjeffj@michigan.gov.

Sponsored By:

Michigan ACE Women's Network; Michigan Women's Commission; Michigan State University Women's Resource Center; Michigan Department of Education, Office of Career & Technical Preparation; U.S Department of Labor, Women's Bureau.

More Information at: www.wtc.msu.edu/ywsl.php

INCOME TAX CREDITS

As you prepare to file your there are some important tax credits that may benefit you.

1. The federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit is designed to reimburse you for some of the child and dependent care costs that families pay in order to work. The credit is worth up to \$2,100.
2. The federal Child Tax Credit is designed to pay some of the expenses of raising children. This credit is worth up to \$1,000 per child.
3. The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is designed to lower taxes of eligible families. In 2008, married couples earning less than \$41,646 or singles earning less than \$38,646 will qualify for

the federal credit. The maximum amount will be \$4,824.

4. The Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit is also designed to lower taxes paid in Michigan for eligible families. In Tax Year 2008, the first year that Michigan workers can receive the credit, the refund will be 10 percent of the federal EITC amount. The maximum amount will be \$482. It will increase to 20 percent in subsequent years.

For more information you can call the Michigan Department of Treasury at (800) 827-4000. Or visit these websites www.irs.gov/individuals/topic or www.michiganeic.org.

Sources: Earned Income Tax Credit Statewide Initiative, Michigan Department of Treasury and National Women's Law Center.

Three Local Women's Commissions in Michigan

Michigan is fortunate to have not only a statewide women's commission, but three county women's commissions in Ingham, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The **Ingham County Women's Commission** was established in 1974 and continues to demonstrate strong female leadership in Ingham County. Out of Michigan's 83 counties, the Ingham County Women's Commission is the longest serving women's commission. It consists of eleven members appointed by the Ingham County Human Services Committee. The Women's Commission also includes one member from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners. Women Commissioners serve three year terms and Jennie Gies will serve as the new chair in 2009. The group advises the Ingham County Board of Commissioners regarding the impact of county policies on women in Ingham County. The Women's Commission also researches and recommends better ways

of meeting the needs of women through county resources.

The group meets the second Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Human Services Building, Lansing. The commission has also established the Ingham County Women's Foundation, an organization that to implement and support various programs and initiatives which benefit the women and children of Ingham County. For more information go to www.ingham.org and www.icwfnfnd.org.

Women's Commission for Oakland County has just concluded its first year and submitted its annual report to the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. The commission includes 25 members, one member nominated by each member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, and two non-voting members from the county board, for a total of 27 members.

The commission expired at the end of 2008, but the Oakland County Board

of Commissioners has been asked to consider authorizing another two years to continue its efforts.

Wanda Lohmeier, Chair, noted that "While the general commission met seven times throughout the year for commission business, the issue committees held individual committee meetings, elected chairs, co-chairs, and secretaries, developed mission statements, and short- and long-term goals for the year," she said. "The effort, energy and commitment by the commissioners into the issue committees have given the Women's Commission a foundation to make a difference in traditional issues that plague our community such as domestic violence, mental health, leadership and economic autonomy."

For more information go to www.oakgov.com.

Macomb County Commission on Women was established on April 17, 2008. It consists of 26 members appointed by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and 2 liaisons from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. The first group of members will serve until December 31.



Commission on Women members selected in January 2009 will serve two years. Jessica Cheshire serves as the chair.

The commission's goal is to improve health, safety, education, economic and social autonomy, earnings and employment conditions for women in Macomb County.

For more information go to www.macombcountymi.gov.

The Macomb County Commission on Women in their first year will be focusing on four issues that affect the women of Macomb County. The commission has formed four sub committees to focus on the following issues: Housing, Higher Education, Political Process and Pay Equity.



SAVE THE DREAM

The Michigan State Housing Development Administration's (MSHDA) Save the Dream Campaign includes helpful information on their web site that assists homeowners who are experiencing financial difficulties or facing foreclosure. The services include a statewide network of homeownership counselors, a second mortgage program to assist current MSHDA borrowers, and refinance programs available to eligible homeowners.

In addition, HUD's new Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) provides targeted emergency

assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities. The State of Michigan has been allocated \$98,653,915 to address the areas of greatest need within Michigan.

If you are having financial problems, there are options available. The Save the Dream toll-free number is 866-946-7432. Also information is available on the web site: www.michigan.gov/mshda.

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CALENDAR

February – American Heart Month (www.americanheart.org)

Feb. 6 – National Wear Red Day (www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/hearttruth)

Feb.15 – Susan B. Anthony Birthday – 1820 (www.susanbanthonyhouse.org)

March – National Women's History Month (www.nwhp.org)

March 8 – International Women's Day (www.internationalwomensday.com)

March 11, 10:00 a.m. – Michigan Women's Commission Meeting. Legislative Committee 10 a.m., Commission meeting 1:00 p.m. Call 517-373-2884

March 20, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Young Women Strong Leaders Conference, GVSU Kirkhoff Center, Allendale MI

March 27, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Young Women Strong Leaders Conference, Wayne State University Conference Center, Detroit MI

April is Alcohol Awareness Month (www.ncadi.samhsa.gov)

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month (www.ncadv.org)

April 8 – Sexual Assault Awareness Month Day of Action www.nsvrc.org/saam

April 17, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. – Young Women Strong Leaders Conference, Alma College Campus Center, Alma MI

April 28 – Equal Pay Day. See <http://www.pay-equity.org/day.html>

Mailing List Update

If your name or address needs to be changed on our newsletter mailing label, or if you receive duplicates, please mail or fax (517-335-1649) the correct information (along with your current label) to the address or fax number listed. You can also email us at MDCR-WomensComm@michigan.gov.